

Barnabas

Acts 11:19-26

Acts 11:19 Now, the gospel being spread to cities and countries of Gentiles.

Scattered abroad: Left Jerusalem because of persecution and hostility towards Jews and Christians. Acts 8:4

Christians scattered to parts of world because of persecution of Jews

Preaching the word ... Lay preachers!

Phenice. Tyre and Sidon located there. Old Philistine country. Philip had traveled in area.

Cyprus: A major island ...Worship of Venus.

And Antioch: 300 miles north of Jerusalem. Idol worship. Cult of Artemis ...

Sanctuary of Apollo...Capital of Seleucid Empire. Population of 200,000

Everywhere Christians went they shared gospel message

..unto the Jews only. Opinion that Christ save Jews only. Person must become proselyte to Judaism first. Then, come to Christ.

Acts 11:20 *Cy-re'ne*--Greek speaking city. Acts 6:9

Grecians: Greek speaking Jews.

Preaching the Lord Jesus

Lord: In order to be saved must be willing to forsake idols, temples and immorality and come to Christ. Willing to repent of sin and unbelief and turn to Christ.

Death, burial, and resurrection

Acts 11:21 *The hand of the Lord was with them.*

1. Judgment of God (Ex. 9:33; Deut. 2:15; Josh. 4:24; 1 Sam. 5:6; 7:13).
2. Blessings of God (Ezra 7:9; 8:18; Neh. 2:8, 18).

They believed and turned unto the Lord: A good definition of repentance.

Acts 20:21 1 Th 1:9

Mac: *As always, believing is inseparable from repentance manifested in a changed life.*

Acts 11:22 *Barnabas.* The son of consolation. The great encourager (4:36).

- Good man and filled with Holy Spirit (24)
- Convinced apostles of Saul's credibility (9:27).
- Sent as a representative by apostles to Antioch to see work of God (22-24)
- Sent with Paul on first missionary journey (13:2).
- Defended Gentile churches at council in Jerusalem (15:12, 22, 25).

Acts 11:23 He came. Observed power of God. Was glad.

Philips, 219: ...*he was a practical man, too, and he could see the danger in people making too light a decision for Christ. The old way into the fold by means of circumcision was too hard. This new and living way by simple faith in Jesus the Lord was not too easy, but it might seem so to some. There was the danger of a false profession of faith. Barnabas warned them to make their calling and election sure. The case of Simon Magus was a warning to all, so 'he exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.'* Salvation is a matter of the heart, not the head."

Purpose of heart: determination of heart; a setting forth. Word used for showbread Matthew. 12:4; Mk 2:26; Heb 9:2

Don't make decision on passion of moment. Be deliberate and purposeful in decisions for Christ.

Cleave unto the Lord: glue to, adhere, join yourself to. Totally immerse yourself in the Lord. Deu 10:20, 22; Deu 13:4 ; Josh 22:5 Heb 2:1 Gal 5:7 ; Heb 12:1; 2 Pet 1:5-8

Acts 11:24

1. **Good man:** Quality
2. **Full of the Holy Ghost:** Spirituality
3. **Faith:** Commitment

Good man: valuable and virtuous. Good character.

- Loves to obey the Lord Psa 37:23 .
- Kind and discrete Psa 112:5
- Has Lord's favor Prov 12:2
- Not stingy Prov 13:22
- Content Prov 14:14
- Positive Mat 12:35

full of the Holy Ghost. Under control of Holy Spirit.

And of faith: Confidence in God, credence, moral conviction.

Acts 11:25 *Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:*

Barnabas overwhelmed by this. Such potential for reaching the Gentile world for Jesus Christ. To seek up and down. Not easy to find Saul

Acts 11:26 *And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. ..*